THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) All the purchases in the Canteen Stores Department are made as per laid down norms and policies. However, as and when any case of corrupt practice comes to notice, necessary action is initiated as per rules.

(b)The norms for the purchase of the alcoholic beverages in canteen stores department are consistent with overall purchase policies.

(c) Canteen Stores Department provides wide choice of products keeping in view the requirement of the consumer.

Re-establishment of Ahir Regiment

1063. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to re-establish Ahir Regiment which had been dissolved under the conspiracy for revolting against British Regime; and

(b) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to raise a separate Ahir Regiment in the Indian Army. The policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

India-Australia Defence cooperation

1064. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first week of June, an Australian Naval Ship HMAs Adelaide had docked in Chennai Port for joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to strengthen the relationship between Australia and India for Defence cooperation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?